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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 EUR-12 /078 W
----------041392 070758Z /17
O R 070615Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5158
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 2307

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SREF, WZ, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: REPORT OF ZANU "ESCAPEES"

REF: PRETORIA 3780

1. MUCH TO POST'S SURPRISE, GOS OFFICIALS AND POLICE HAVE MANAGED TO KEEP FACT OF PRESENCE OF OVER TEN ZANU MEMBERS IN CUSTODY IN SWAZILAND FROM LEAKING OUT. A.R. SHABANGU, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, HAS SUCCESSFULLY DISSEMBLED TO PRESS, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, AND UNHCR REP AND NO WORD HAS LEAKED FROM ANYWHERE.

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SITUATION JULY 6 WITH P.M. SHABANGU, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIMIN. HE CONFIRMED THAT OVER TEN ZANU MEMBERS HAVE BEEN IN CUSTODY IN SWAZILAND SINCE LAST WEEK. THE NAMES GIVEN IN REFTEL ARE CORRECT BUT SHABANGU WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL NAMES.

3. SHABANGU STATED THAT THE ZANU MEMBERS FILLED OUT THE REFUGEE
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QUESTIONAIRES GIVEN BY GOS TO ALL REFUGEES. THE MAIN REASON FOR LEAVING MUGABE'S FORCES SEEMS TO BE THAT THE NUMBER TWO MAN (UNNAMED BY SHABANGU) UNDER MUGABE HAS BEEN SUPPRESSING DISSENT AND ATTEMPTING TO EXERT A STRONGER CONTROL OVER ZANU MEMBERS. SOME ZANU REFUGEES HAVE INDICATED THEIR INTENT TO GO TO UK WHILE OTHERS PLAN TO RETURN TO RHODESIA TO SUPPORT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. SHABANGU WAS UNABLE TO OFFER ANY

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FURTHER INFO ON DIFFERENCES INSIDE ZANU.

4. SHABANGU ALSO STATED THAT MUKONO (SITHOLE'S SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS) HAD BEEN IN SWAZILAND AND HAD BEEN ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE ZANU MEMBERS. HE HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THEM TO GET THEM TO RETURN TO RHODESIA.

5. SHABANGU INDICATED GOS WOULD BE PREPARED TO ISSUE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE ZANU MEMBERS TO LEAVE SWAZILAND.
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